

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 have been examined. Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,222,512 to Tajima et al. ("Tajima"). The Examiner has objected to claim 2 for failing to further limit claim 1.

I. OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS

The Examiner has objected to claim 2 for failing to further limit claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 2 as shown above. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments overcome the Examiner's objection.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant has amended claims 1-2 to more thoroughly define the invention disclosed in the present application.

III. CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Tajima. However, as discussed below, Applicant submits that Tajima fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 1 and 3.

In claim 1 the discharge cells adjoining in the row-wise and column-wise directions are grouped to form a discharge cell block. Among the discharge cells in the discharge cell block, the number of light emissions which are allotted according to the weighting of the subfield are made different. In other words, for each of the subfields, the number of light emissions is made

different among the discharge cells in the discharge cell block. Furthermore, in claims 1 and 3 the number of light emissions allotted to each discharge cell is changed field by field.

For example, one embodiment of the claimed invention is illustrated in Figs. 8, 9 and 13. In this embodiment, the discharge cells are segregated according to “odd” and “even” orders in the row-wise and column-wise directions. Specifically, Fig. 8 shows that different numbers of light emissions are allotted to each subfield according to the driving formats “A” through “D”. Fig. 9 shows the arrangement of the driving formats “A” through “D” in the row-wise and column-wise directions. The elements discussed above with respect to claim 1 can be summarized in one non-limiting example as shown in the following table.

	SF1	SF 2	SF3	SF4
Cell of Mode A	20	52	84	116
Cell of Mode B	28	60	92	124
Cell of Mode C	12	44	76	108
Cell of Mode D	4	36	68	100

Fig. 13 illustrates that the arrangement of the driving modes “A” through “D” are changed field by field in this embodiment.

The Examiner cites Tajima, column 24, lines 53-55 to support his assertion that a method is known wherein the number of light emissions allotted to each discharge cell in a cell block is varied for each field. In Tajima, the arrangement of the sub-frames, supposedly corresponding to the sub-field in the present application, is changed between the first mode and the second mode.

Figs. 20-21 illustrate the arrangements of the subfield in the first mode (A) and the second mode (B) which are illustrated in Figs. 24(A-D) - 26. Between the first mode (A) and the second mode (B), the states of the subframes 4(1) and 4(2), which are positioned at the head and the end respectively of one frame, are reversed (see gray-scale levels 8-15, for example). Similarly, the states of the subframes 8(1) and 8(2) are reversed. The remaining subframes are unchanged between the first mode (A) and the second mode (B).

However, the weighting of the turned-on subframe is made unchanged between the first and second modes (A) and (B). More particularly, the gray scale levels (0-31) are formed with various combinations of the four weighting levels (1, 2, 4, 8). The driving scheme of the subframes are illustrated in Fig. 8.

Thus, Applicant submits that Tajima fails to teach or suggest at least the elements of claims 1 and 3 discussed above. Claim 2, being dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least based on this dependency.

II. CONCLUSION

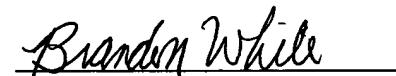
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/883,448

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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